

## HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 719

By Faison

A RESOLUTION to commend Connie Ball for his honorable and astute service as Mayor of the City of Newport on the occasion of his retirement.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pause to specially recognize those estimable public servants who have dedicated themselves to improving the quality of life for their fellow citizens; and

WHEREAS, the Honorable Connie Ball is one such estimable person who evinces the greatest integrity and probity in all his chosen endeavors; after serving with distinction as the Mayor of Newport for the past decade, he is leaving office this year; and

WHEREAS, the son of Lon and Erdine Ball, Mr. Ball graduated from Cocke County High School in 1969 before earning his Bachelor's degree in Physical Education, Health, and Recreation and Elementary Education from Carson Newman College; he later earned his Master's degree from East Tennessee State University; and

WHEREAS, Mayor Ball began his thirty-eight year teaching career at West End Elementary School in June of 1973, before moving to Edgemont Elementary in August that same year where he taught reading and math until 1980; and

WHEREAS, in 1980, Mr. Ball became a Teaching Principal at Del Rio Elementary School, teaching all subjects in 8<sup>th</sup> grade; he would leave the classroom and serve just as Principal of Del Rio from 1988 to 1995; and

WHEREAS, during his time at Del Rio Elementary School, Connie Ball also spent ten years teaching reading and math for the Title I Summer School and Summer Youth Program at the Ben Hooper Vocational School; and

WHEREAS, Mayor Ball is credited with turning around Del Rio and Edgemont Elementary Schools by obtaining sponsors to assist the schools financially and was

instrumental in raising thousands of dollars for each school through the Adopt a School Program; and

WHEREAS, Connie Ball would complete his thirty-eight years in education at Edgemont Elementary in December 2013, having returned to the school to serve as Principal in 1995; and

WHEREAS, first elected to Newport City Council in 1994, Mayor Ball served three four-year terms as Alderman, serving as vice-mayor during two of his terms; and

WHEREAS, Connie Ball was appointed to serve as mayor of the City of Newport following the death of Roland Dykes, and he served out the late Mayor Dykes' term before he won election to the office of mayor himself; and

WHEREAS, during his tenure, Mayor Ball has shown himself to be a great leader whose community has benefited from his knowledge and experience; and

WHEREAS, under his leadership, Mayor Ball has led a variety of projects working towards the betterment of Newport, including the River Walk Project, the development of the New City Hall Facility, the Newport Grammar School Expansion, and an excellent partnership with the county government; and

WHEREAS, Mayor Ball is a dedicated and active participant in his community, and he has given his time and service to a variety of areas, including as a substitute bus driver for over thirty years, as Elementary School Athletic Director for over twenty-five years, and as a reserve deputy of the Cocke County Sheriff's Department; and

WHEREAS, in his private life, Mayor Ball and his wife, Marsha, have been married over forty years and have two children; Amy and Connie, Jr., as well as one grandchild, Taelyr; and

WHEREAS, the Balls are active members of Newport Church of Christ, which Mayor Ball has attended since his childhood and in which he continues to serve in numerous capacities; and

WHEREAS, Connie Ball is wholly committed to the noble precepts of public service that have earned Tennessee recognition as the "Volunteer State," and he should be specially recognized on the special occasion of his retirement as the Mayor of the City of Newport; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE

CONCURRING, that we hereby commend Connie Ball for his honorable and astute service to the people of Newport as their Mayor, salute his unswerving commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction, and extend to him our best wishes for much continued success in his future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.